



## Athlete Profile (National)

### Joseph Knoblock – Not Slowing Down

Softball, nine-ball, bowling — they're all favorites of Joseph Knoblock, a 40-year-old Army and Air Force combat-wounded veteran who served in the Gulf War and Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"I always compete in the same sports," jokes Knoblock, talking about his participation in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

This is his third consecutive year competing in the Games, being held July 25-29, 2008 in Omaha, Nebraska. A paraplegic athlete, Knoblock is also registered for the air guns and slalom competitions.



"I just really like these events," he says. "I try to improve in them every year. It's really a lot of fun and I like to meet other people."

Having fun, he believes, is the most important aspect to the Wheelchair Games, and he doesn't get upset when the competition doesn't go his way.

"I just do my best, that's all," Knoblock says. "Don't ever give up and don't let anyone tell you it can't be done. There's always someone out there worse off than you."

This spring, Knoblock participated in his first National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, where he skied the Rocky Mountains and was amazed at the amount of snow on the slopes in Colorado. He learned about the Sports Clinic events from his therapist at the VA medical facility in Tampa, Florida where he receives treatment. He is hoping to return to that event next year, perhaps becoming another regular participant as he is at the Wheelchair Games.

The Colorado slopes should be ready for him next year. For now though, Joseph Knoblock has his sights set on the softball field ... and the pool table ... and the lanes ... in Omaha.